

HORSEMAN STRIKES AGAIN AS BLUES CLINCH A POINT

By STUART EARP; Dulwich H. 1, Wycombe W. 1

THANKS to another goal by Tony Horseman — his third in two Christmas holiday matches — Wycombe Wanderers managed to hang on to a share of the Rothmans Isthmian League points at leaders Dulwich Hamlet on Wednesday.

Horseman, who scored two at Tooting on Saturday, was the man who put Wycombe back on terms after Dulwich had been "gifted" the lead in this top-of-the-table clash, worth six points to the winners. The game at Loakes Park between these two teams ended in an identical scoreline, although Wanderers had the better of the game. It was a different story on Boxing Day.

Despite equalising in the first half, the Blues were well and truly outgunned in the first 45 minutes by a Dulwich side which possessed real skill and enterprise. They were unlucky not to be at least a couple of goals up by the interval.

On their early showing, Dulwich looked championship material. They produced some really refreshing football. Short and long passes played with precision accuracy and some exciting running by Alec Jackson, their quicksilver winger who has interested Chelsea this season.

LETHARGIC

Wanderers, in comparison, were slow and lethargic. The defence, finding it difficult to turn on a soggy pitch, seemed

suspect, while the midfield men just couldn't match the work rate of the home side.

Dulwich telegraphed their intentions in only the second minute when Gerry O'Rourke (who scored their goal at Loakes Park) dived full length to send a flying header over the bar. Dylan Evans drilled in a curling shot which had Dave Roffey fully stretched three minutes later. But then, Terry Reardon, who played so well at Tooting, handed out just a bit too much of the Christmas spirit.

The former Slough man was on half way with the ball at his feet. For some season he tried to pass the ball back to his goalkeeper but it was intercepted by Jackson. Dave Bullock was left stranded as the winger lengthened his stride, sped away from the rest of the defence, side-stepped Maskell and coolly curved the ball into an unguarded net.

Only two minutes later Fred Pudney volleyed over the top from ten yards and then Ken Jelly, playing only his second game of the term, sent a looping header just above the crossbar.

The problems were plentiful for Wycombe. They were allowing Dulwich too much time to instigate attacks, standing off as Blaydon, O'Rourke and Barker set up raid after raid.

But in the 26th minute, they produced a flash of brilliance — and an equaliser. It was Mick

Holfield who began the move, racing down the flank, beating two defenders and crossing into the box. The ball arched over, chased, by Roffey and Steve Perrin. Despite the attentions of the 'keeper, however, Perrin crossed the ball again with an acrobatic over-head kick, leaving the goal-line guarded by two defenders. Tony Horseman, however, beat them both with a perfect header right into the top of the net.

Reardon almost repeated his earlier error three minutes later, Maskell just beating Jackson to the ball and soon afterwards Jelly forced a fine save from the 'keeper. For the last five minutes Wycombe came back well but nothing could take the first half honours away from Dulwich.

It seemed the pattern would continue in the second half as Dulwich stormed out after the interval with Jelly hitting the side netting after 51 minutes. But the best chance fell to Wycombe when full back Ken Baker tried to pass back to his goalkeeper. The ball missed Roffey, by miles and was seemingly entering the net chased by Dylan Evans. However the ball went just past the post with Evans seconds too late to push it home. From the corner, Holfield's clever shot with the outside of his boot flew into the side netting.

In the second half Dulwich resorted to niggling tactics which made their tally of ten

penalty points somewhat understandable. Chief offender was Pudney, who was always backing into the defence. Their attacking force was therefore weakened and in the 21st minute Wanderers came up with one of the best moves of the game.

An attack involving Pritchard, Holfield and Perrin culminated with the latter firing in a good shot only to see the effort well saved by the diving Roffey. A minute later Evans broke clear but his well struck drive hit the stanchion.

At this stage Wycombe were looking the better side and in the 31st minute they came as close as they ever could to a winner. From a free kick, Reardon slipped the ball inside to Paul Birdseye, standing about 25 yards out. Paul let fly with a curling drive which seemed destined for the top corner of the net. But the ball veered, struck the crossbar and was hastily cleared away.

DANGEROUS

Dulwich, while weathering these attacks, were still dangerous on the break as they demonstrated in the 81st minute when a move covering the length of the pitch ended with Pudney heading tamely into the path of John Maskell.

Towards the end of the match Wycombe eased off somewhat, seemingly happy with a share of the points. It almost cost them

dearly. With five minutes left Jelly fired the ball right across the face of the goal only to see a Wycombe defender deflect his shot away for a corner. Then the fatal pass-back error was almost repeated when Holfield tried to find Maskell but sent the ball straight to Pudney who promptly scooped it over the top from five yards.

In the last minute of a highly entertaining game, Wycombe had seemingly stolen all three points. Steve Perrin broke clear of the defence and ran wide. His low cross eluded two defenders and was met first time by Larry Pritchard. The latter's shot was so well struck it seemed to be past Roffey when the tall keeper stuck out a leg and deflected the ball away. A winner at that stage would have been an injustice but Wanderers must feel well pleased with four out of six points from the Christmas break.

DULWICH: D. Roffey; K. Baker, T. Smith, R. Brookes, S. Rogers; G. O'Rourke, T. Blaydon, D. Barker; K. Jelly, A. Jackson. Sub: B. Mills (not used).

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, P. Wood, D. Bullock, R. Grant; T. Reardon, M. Holfield, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman, D. Evans, S. Perrin. Sub: R. Williams (not used).

Referee: C. A. Gregory.
Half-time: 1-1. Goalscorers Wycombe — Horseman (26), Dulwich — Jackson (6).